



THE EQUITY

www.theequity.ca

Volume 128, Issue No. 4

The voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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Pontiac could provide a solution to Gatineau's waste problems

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Equity Reporter
PORTAGE DU FORT
Feb 2, 2011

On Jan. 18, the city of Gatineau published a call for qualification for the design, financing, construction and operation of a treatment facility for waste disposal in Quebec. The close of the call for qualification is March 31, 2011.

Ray Stillwell, the president of the Green Investment Group Inc. (GIGI), said it's possible to solve Gatineau's waste problems in Pontiac and it was a welcome announcement by Outaouais to use waste recovery technology instead of landfills for ultimate waste disposal.

The GIGI website reads, "We are able to develop, fund, build and operate these new facilities, which is the turnkey solution that Gatineau is looking for. When the city launches its call for tenders, the Pontiac industrial park will be ready with a proposal that is compliant with environmental standards and addresses the issue of landfilling in Outaouais."

If 10 companies apply for consideration to the city of Gatineau, he would have for all 10 to have a home at the industrial site.

"We want everybody involved to know that the Pontiac Industrial Park is where they need to be located," he said. "A lot of folks would not want to have a process that handles garbage in their backyards. That's not a problem, it is a large site not in anyone's backyard. We are perfectly located to address this need."

SSPM (Sustainable Site Planning and Management) Pontiac, a subsidiary of GIGI purchased the former Smurfit Stone Mill site in Portage du Fort on Jan. 15, 2010. Since then, the site has been made into an industrial park with 74 lots called the Pontiac Regional Industrial Park.

NX Global Inc. applied to move into the park to

process waste there. According to a press release from NX Global Inc., "The waste stream from MRC Pontiac (18 communities) is mandated for disposal at this site beginning when the system is available. Additional waste contracts are being negotiated from bordering communities."

The GIGI website reads, "We are happy about this initiative, which clearly shows elected officials' desire to adopt more environmentally conscious methods of waste disposal. This decision is part of our approach to promote renewable energy processes. Furthermore, for some time now, we have been developing a turnkey waste transformation and recovery project that will be implemented in Pontiac's industrial park," said Stillwell.

Pontiac warden Michael McCrann said the city of Gatineau has been working with the MRC for five years to come up with advanced technology that would be acceptable to environmental standards.

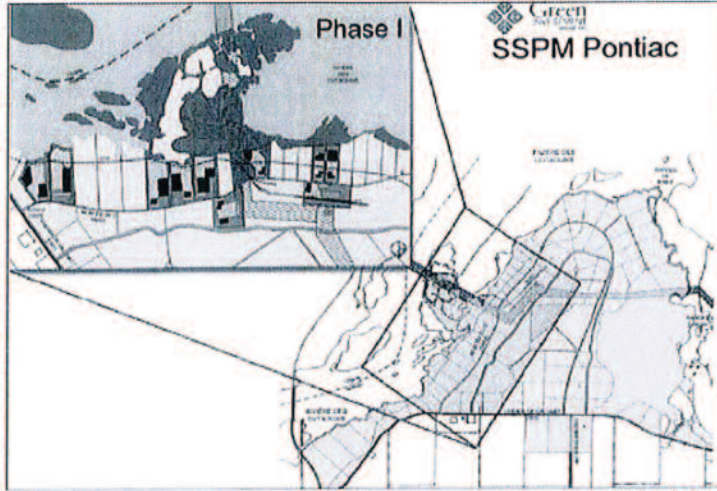
"It was a natural progression. Things were put in place four or five years ago, so once Gatineau got a call that SSPM was interested in doing waste to energy products, they did a press conference that they were going to answer a call for tender," said McCrann. "SSPM is interested in doing waste-to-energy with material waste so they want to be a company that Gatineau chooses."

Companies have already approached GIGI about renting or buying a lot at the industrial park. There are 74 lots available and Stillwell is currently negotiating with about 12 interested companies.

"We want to encourage all of them applying to qualify to consider the Pontiac Regional Industrial Park. We are here and ready," said Stillwell.

He looks for companies that have a recycling or green energy focus.

"That's sort of primary. If



This is a conceptual plot of the industrial park in Portage du Fort. This is a conceptual drawing only. It's a planning tool but not set in concrete. Stillwell said the industrial park development will be as flexible as needed to accommodate the various needs of prospective businesses at the site, regardless of the conceptual plan.

there's another type of business that doesn't fit into a category, they may end up buying the green energy we produce on site or buying from one of the other businesses. There are two layers, those engaged in recycling and at same time another layer of businesses that will use those products for their own manufacturing," said Stillwell.

NX Global Inc. has put in a letter of intent for a site lease at the industrial park by its subsidiary, Applied Concepts for Energy Corp (ACEC). ACEC is a U.S. based company looking to

redevelop at least four former paper and pulp processing plants in the U.S. and Canada. The former Smurfit Stone paper mill site in Portage du Fort is their first venture.

A press release stated, "The first plant is a 2,200 acre site in Quebec where we expect to use between 400 and 800 acres to develop what is the prototype model for all sites. The initial site will process 1,000 tons of waste per day starting at 300 tons and adding in 100 ton increments as the waste from the region becomes available."

It will be a waste-to-energy, waste-to-compost and algae facility, a combination of waste disposal and algae production for human consumption.

Norman Birmingham, a spokesperson for NX Global Inc. and ACEC, said the company will be getting "putrid" garbage such as lettuce, potato peels etc. They will convert it and other pieces of solid waste into compost, infuse it with CO2 from other sources and sell the product and the remainder of waste, which is expected to be at about 12 per cent.

"It would likely go to another group that's on site," said Birmingham. "Then we would take the CO2 produced from generating electricity on site and grow algae for bio fuels and food for human consumption. It could be tablets to oils to whatever somebody might want. We already have a contract for providing oils for replacing fish oil."

Birmingham said ACEC will move into the site as soon as the permitting process is done.

"It's a matter of whether we get to build the site. A major catalyst for deciding what type of final projects will be on site is which ones will be most cost effective and have value added products at the end," said Birmingham.

So far, there is only one company that has moved into a lot at the industrial park. Trebio, a wood pellet manufacturer who should be selling material by May.

Promoters vying for a spot on the site have until March 31 to submit a candidacy, business plan and model of their site.

They have to prove their technology is safe for the environment.

"It's an exhausting process. Each promoter would have to select a proven technology, but the call for qualifiers right now is very open," said Daniel Labine, the development

strategic commissioner at the MRC. "In the second phase, the technology has to be somewhat approved by authorities (Quebec government). They are then invited to a call for tender. The intent is to have the solid waste treated regionally by 2014."

Labine said it takes about a year and a half for a facility to be built. If accepted,

companies will have until 2014 to finish building. Once accepted, a company can then go to the Ministry of Environment to get a building permit. Once the permit is in hand, they can start building.

It will take about 13 months to be fully operational, nine months after the permits are issued, said Birmingham.

"They have to get comfortable with what they're going to do and then get us comfortable with what they're going to do. It's good for the park and community and we have to come to a definitive agreement after that," said Stillwell.

"We're trying to be proactive with potential businesses that want to locate there. We're trying to give them a welcome environment. Some are pretty diverse. Most go through the Ministry of Environment and we try to understand what the business is," said McCrann.

McCrann said the MRC has been involved in the development of the industrial park since before GIGI bought the park over a year ago.

Although, their input is important, Stillwell said GIGI are ultimately the ones who negotiate with parties and decide on the deal.

"We've agreed to work together to make it into something everybody can be proud of," said Stillwell. "The MRC is very supportive of us as it relates to the industrial park. We want the MRC to identify with our project and we want the community to feel that their thoughts and interests are important to us. It's the only way we can be successful."

Labine acknowledges that the project is very expensive. He said the environment is

the key factor so just because a company has the money to move in, doesn't necessarily mean they get to. Birmingham said their position of the site will cost around 80 million dollars.

"One can't just look at the capitalization required but also at the safety of the environment. It's very important for the province. We will not issue permits and licenses just because you have a stiff bank account," said Labine. "With the contracts and challenges we've all involved in, the decision has to be made very shortly. And it has to be cost effective for the promoter."

Labine predicts once the industrial park is complete with all of the lots full, it will create between 1,500 to 1,800 jobs in the next five years.

"This will not only bring jobs, but housing projects. We will need to look at areas to house these individuals. There will be an awful lot of families coming from other parts of the world, it will probably migrate into other types of businesses as well such as lodging, restoration, clothing stores, etc.," he said.

McCrann added, "Our pre-occupation is creating jobs and we want to do it safely. We want to follow the vision 20/20 document. It has to be environmentally acceptable to the ministry and stakeholders. The ultimate goal is to create jobs and we have a vested interest in this. Our mission is to create jobs and have social acceptability. Other than that, I don't really care what they do as long as they are putting people to work and making our people happy."

In terms of the industrial park meeting along, Labine said everything is actually ahead of schedule and there is real progress being made.

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Melinda Moore
and *Ben Hodgins*

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WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE

Gaming Event Clearance advertised at \$10 applies to selected video game software titles only.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Pontiac High School

PARENTS

Please note that report cards for Term 2 will be sent home with students by Feb. 7th.

If applicable, I.E.P. term evaluations will be attached.

WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE

Special Kitty Cat Litter 19.8 kg (#881744) should

Special Kitty



A conceptual map of the park taken from the Green Investment Group website.